Procurement of foodgrains in North Eastern Region

2626. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the procurement of paddy, rice and wheat in NER during the last tliree years, year-wise.

(b) whether Government have formulated any scheme for giving incentives to the farmers for producing above foodgrains in the region; and

(c) if so. the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) There was no procurement of paddy, rice and wheat under the Price Support Scheme in NER States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland. Sikkim and Tripura in the last three years.

(b) and (c) Each season, the minimum support prices for major agricultural commodities including paddy and wheat are fixed, applicable for the country as a whole including North Eastern Region. Since these are deficit States in terms of agricultural production, die market prices normally rule above the Minimum Support Price. However, in order to make the concept of Minimum Support Price a reality to all fanners everywhere in the country, the Government of India is encouraging States to take up decentralized procurement scheme. So far, in the North East, only the State Government of Assam has indicated its willingness to undertake decentralized procurement of paddy/rice.

Grain banks in Orissa

2627. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have sanctioned Rs. 22 crores to open 100 Grain banks in the first phase in the tribal districts of Orissa;

(b) if so. the number and location where the grain banks have been opened so far;

(c) the number of grain banks to be opened in Orissa by the year 2001 - 2002 with details of locations, district-wise, in the State; and

(d) the various grains to be deposited in those banks with capacity thereof?